



By the Queene.



The Queenes Maiestie, perceiuing the state of the Citie of London, (being aunciently termed her Chambr) and the suburges and confines thereof, to increase dayly by access of people to inhabite in the same, in such ample sort, as thereby many inconueniences are seene already, but many greater of necessitie like to followe, being such as her Maiestie cannot neglect to remedie, hauing the principall care vnder Almighty God to foresee aforehand, to haue her people in such a Citie and confines, not onely well gouerned by ordinarie Justice, to serue God, and obey her Maiestie, which by reason of such multitudes lately encreased, can hardly be done without deuise of mo newe iurisdiccions and officers for that purpose, but to be also prouided of sustentation of victuall, foode, and other like necessities for mans life vpon reasonable prices, without which no Citie can long continue: And finally to the preservation of her people in health, which may seeme impossible to continue, though presently by Gods goodnesse the same is perceiued to be in better estate vniuersally, then hath bene in mans memoire: yet where there are such great multitudes of people brought to inhabite in small roomes, whereof a great part are seene very poore, yea, such as must liue of begging or by worse meanes, and they heaped by together, and in a sort smothered with many families of children and seruantes in one house or small tenement, it must needes followe (if any plague or popular sicknes shoulde by Gods permission, enter amongst those multitudes) that the same would not onely spread it selfe and inuade the whole Citie and confines, as great mortalitie shoulde ensue to the same, where her Maiesties personall presence is many times required, besides the great confluence of people from all partes of the Realme by reason of the ordinarie termes for Justice there holden, but woulde be also dispersed throught all other partes of the Realme, to the manifest danger of the whole body thereof, out of the which neither her Maiesties owne person can be (but by Gods speciall ordinance) exempted, nor any other whatsoever they be. For remedie whereof, as time may now serue, vntill by some further good order to be had in Parliament or otherwise the same may be remedied: Her Maiestie by good & deliberate aduise of her counsell, & being also thereto moued by the considerate opinions of the Lord Maior, Aldermen, and other the graue wise men in & about the Citie, doeth charge, and straightly command all maner of persons of what qualitie soeuer they be, to desist and forbear from any newe buyldings of any house or tenement, within thre miles from any of the gates of the sayd Citie of London, to serue for habitation or lodging for any person, where no former house hath bene knownen to haue bene, in the memoire of such as are now liuing, And also to forbear from letting or setting, or suffering any more families then one onely to be placed or to inhabite from hencefoorth in any house that heretofore hath bene inhabited.

And to the intent this her Maiesties Royall comandement & necessary prouision may take place and be duely obserued, for so vniuersall a benefite to the whole body of the Realme, for whose respects all particular persons are bound by Gods lawe and mans, to forbear from their particular and extraordinary lucre: Her Maiestie straightly chargeth the Lord Maior of the Citie of London, and all other officers hauing authoritie in the same, and also all Justices of peace, Lords, and Bailifes of liberties, not being within the iurisdiction of the said Lord Maior of London, to foresee that no person do begin to prepare any foundation for any new house, tenement, or building, to serue, to receiue,

or hold any inhabitants to dwell or lodge, or to use any victualling therein, where no former habitation hath bene in the memorie of such as now doe live: but that they be prohibited and restrained so to do. And both the persons that shall so attempte to the contrary, and all manner of workemen that shall (after warning giuen) continue in any such worke tending to such newe buildings, to be committed to close prison, and there to remaine without baile, vntill they shall finde good suerties with bondes for reasonable summes of money (to be forfeitable & recovered at her maiesties suite, for the use of the Hospitals in and about the said citie,) that they shall not at any time attempt the like. And further the saide officers shall seaze all maner of stuffe so (after any warning giuen) brought to the place where such new buildings shalbe intended, and the same cause to be conuerted and employed in any publike use for the Citie or parishe where the same shalbe attempted. And for the auoyding of the multitudes of families heaped vp in one dwelling house, or for the conuerting of any one house into multitude of such tenements for dwelling or victualling places, the saide Lord Maior and all other officers, in their severall liberties within the limittes of thre miles, as is aboue mentioned, shall commit any person giuing cause of offence from the day of the publication of this present proclamation, to close prison, as is afore limited. And also for the offences in this part of increase of many indwellers, or as they be commonly termed *Inmates*, or vnderlitters, which haue bene suffered within these seuen yeeres, contrary to the good ancient lawes or customes of the Citie, or of the Boroughes and Parishes within the foresaid limite of thre miles afore mentioned, The said Lord Maior and all other the officers aboue mentioned, shall speedily cause to be redressed in their ordinarie courtes and lawe dayes, betwixt this and the feast of all Saintes next comming. Within which times such vnderlitters, or *Inmates*, may prouide themselves other places abroad in the Realme, where many houses rest vnhabited, to the decay of diuers auncient good Boroughes and Townes. And because her Maiestie intendeth to haue this ordinance duely executed: her pleasure is, that the said Lord Maior of London, and other the officers hauing iurisdiction within the said space of thre miles aboue mentioned, shall after the proclaiming hereof, as speedily as they may, meete in some conuenient places nere to the said Citie, and there (after conference had) accord among themselves how to proceede to the execution hereof. And if cause shall so require, to impart to her Maiesties priue counsell any let or impediment that may arise, to the intent that remedie be giuen to any such impediment, according to her Maiesties pleasure heretofore expessed.

Given at *Windsor* the seuenth day of July .1580. in the two and twentieth yeere of her Maiesties reigne.

God saue the Queene.

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